

REMARKS

Claims 44-50 were pending in this application at the time of the Office Action of 13 October 2004. Claims 44-50 were allowed in the Office Action. The present amendment is made in response to the Examiner's objections to the specification and drawings. The Applicants maintain that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner indicated that the specification should be amended to provide an actual description of the inventive method of the present invention instead of a description which referred to the claims. Paragraph [0010] of the specification has been amended in accord with the Examiner's objection. It should also be noted that paragraph [0010] of the specification, as noted in the Preliminary Amendment of 8 March 2002, corresponds to page 3, lines 10-14 of the literal English translation of German language specification, to which the Examiner referred in the Office Action of 13 October 2004.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings on the grounds that reference number 4 as mentioned in the written description, is not presented in the drawings. The Examiner also objected to the use of both of the reference numbers "3" and "4" to designate the opening as described in the disclosure. Paragraph [0034] (page 7, lines 26-30 of the literal English translation of the German language document) has been amended to correct the apparent typographical error in the written description that associated the reference number "4" with the opening. The written description now only refers to "opening 3," as shown in the drawings. Therefore, the Applicants maintain that the drawings now comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) and (5). No replacement sheets for the drawings are believed to be necessary in light of these amendments to the written description.

The outstanding Office action was mailed on 13 October 2004. The Examiner set a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 months from the mailing date. No fees are believed to be due with this response. However, in the event that a fee for the filing of his response is insufficient,

Ser. No. 10/021,899
Response to Office Action of 13 October 2004
Atty Docket 117163-34

the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or to credit any overpayment to
Deposit Account 15-0450.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Cunniff", written in a cursive style.

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